



File Code: 1950

Date: November 10, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests,

The Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District has received an operator request to conduct an exploratory placer project for locatable minerals on lands administered by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF).

The Forest Service is obligated to process, administer, and manage mining operations on National Forest System lands conducted under the authorities of the following laws and regulations: the U.S. Mining Laws of May 10, 1872 (17 Stat. 91 as amended 30 U.S.C. 31-54), the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (30 Stat. 34 as amended 16 U.S.C. 473-478, 419-482 and 551), and Public Law 91-631, entitled the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970. The laws established a statutory right to go upon and use the open public domain land of the National Forest System (NFS). Regulations promulgated on September 1, 1974, enacted 36 CFR 228 Subpart A - Locatable Minerals, setting forth rules and procedures for mining related activity on NFS land to minimize adverse environmental impacts on surface resources. The Forest Service has worked closely with the operator to obtain a Plan that provides the necessary detail to analyze the proposal as directed under 36 CFR 228, Subpart A.

Proposed Project Description

The proposed project area is located in T49N, R4E, Section 10, Boise Meridian (B.M.), Shoshone County, south of the intersection of Kings Pass Road and Beaver Creek Road. The operator has proposed to conduct an exploratory trenching program, which includes excavating ten exploratory trenches approximately twenty feet wide by twenty feet long, constructing a temporary access trail off of King's Pass Road from private ground, and collecting, washing and returning the processed gravels to the trench they were excavated from. Reclamation would occur concurrently with operations. No winter operations have been proposed. All NFS lands disturbed during the activities in this proposal would be reclaimed and seeded with the Forest Service-approved seed mix, where appropriate. Final reclamation activities would be completed within one year from project implementation.

If this exploration is successful in revealing mineralization of sufficient economic value, the operator must submit another plan for additional exploration and potential development of the discovery. This possible future proposal would be subject to documentation as appropriate under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and require a new decision.

Detailed information and maps regarding the project area and proposed activities are available online at the project website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60984>.

Public input, in the form of substantive comments that are factual, and solution based, are the most useful for us. Comments are considered substantive when they are within the scope of the



proposal, are specific to the proposal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider (36 CFR § 219.62). Based on the timeline for this project, your input will be most useful in developing proposed action if received by December 15, 2021.

Electronic comments can be submitted on the project website provided above. In the “Get Connected” box on the right-hand side, click “Comment on Project” to submit your comments. Electronic comments may be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word documents (.doc). If submitting electronic comments please put the project name in the subject line.

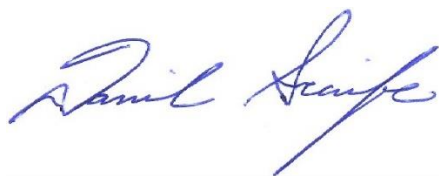
To minimize the spread of COVID-19 and to promote social distancing, the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District offices are not open to the public, and therefore we will not be accepting hand delivered comments at this time. Written comments may be mailed to the IPNF Supervisor's Office, 3232 West Nursery Way, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 83815. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments may also be faxed to 208-765-7307.

Any comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment are considered part of the public record for this project, available for public inspection, and released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

If you would like to receive future mailings about this project, please subscribe to electronic mailings using the “Subscribe for Email Updates” on the project website.

If you prefer to receive mailings by postal mail only or would like more information, please contact Nira Walters (Minerals Administrator/Geologist) at the IPNF Forest Supervisor's Office, 3232 West Nursery Rd, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; or by email at niranjan.walters@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



DANIEL SCAIFE
District Ranger